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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SY-05 SYE-00 A-02 OPR-02 OC-06
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3106
E.O. 12065: GDS 4/28/86 (LAWRENCE, L.) OR-AMB
TAGS: PINS, JM
SUBJECT: SECURITY MINISTRY OFFICIAL LEADS ARMED MARCH THROUGH OPPOSITION AREA
REF: A) KINGSTON 3060 B) KINGSTON 2969

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY A WELL-EDUCATED YOUNG JAMAICAN PRESENT AT THE SCENE THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE GOJ MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY, EQUIPPED WITH A POLICE RADIO AND AN AUTOMATIC PISTOL, LAST WEEK PERSONALLY LED ABOUT 125 HEAVILY-ARMED POEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) SUPPORTERS ON A PROVOCATIVE MARCH THROUGH AN OPPOSITION STRONGHOLD NEAR KINGSTON. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE (WHO IS THE SON OF A FORMERLY HIGH-RANKING GOJ OFFICIAL AND WAS HIMSELF STOPPED AT A ROADBLOCK SET UP BY THE PNP FOLLOWERS), THE PNP GROUP ATTEMPTED TO INSTIGATE A CONFRONTATION WITH JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) ADHERENTS, BUT THE SIMILARLY-ARMED JLP SUPPORTERS REMAINED INSIDE THEIR YARDS. THE POLICE WERE NOTICEABLY ABSENT IN THE AREA THROUGHOUT OUR SOURCE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE INCIDENT, WHICH WAS NOT REPORTED BY THE LOCAL MEDIA.

2. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO REPORT THAT THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, ROY MCGANN, WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE POLICE DURING

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THE PNP MARCH, THAT MCGANN WAS SEEN WITH A POLICE RADIO AND THE POLICE WERE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN POINT TO TACIT ACCEPTANCE BY THE POLICE OF WHAT THE SOURCE STRESSED WAS NOTHING SHORT OF "PROVOCATION". THIS INCIDENT DID NOT CULMINATE IN VIOLENCE, BUT INNER-CITY KINGSTON CONTINUES TO BE ROCKED BY POLITICAL VIOLENCE (NINE PEOPLE--INCLUDING THE GOLD STREETN VICTIMS HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN PM MANLEY'S EAST CENTRAL KINGSTON CONSTITUENCY IN THE LAST WEEK ALONE) AND THE ROLE OF THE POLICE AT TIMES REMAINS AMBIGUOUS.

(DRAFTED BY DAVID M. SLAON)
LAWRENCE
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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